

Application No. 10/664,760

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

To prevent the reinforcement bars from lifting out of the cradles 20 and 22, on the inner surfaces of the opposing sidewalls 24a-26a, 24b-26b, 28a-30a, and 28b-30b are retaining members 32. As shown most clearly in Figs. 2 and 3, the retaining members 32 extend slightly over the channels C1 and C2 to prevent the reinforcement bars from moving upward and out of the channels C1 and C2. As the Figures indicate, the upper surfaces of the retaining members 32 are beveled, sloped, or curved slightly downward so that when the reinforcement bars are pressed downward toward the channels C1 and C2, force is transferred outward to cause the sidewalls 24a-b, 26a-b, 28a-b, and 30a-b to flex outward and allow the reinforcement bars to snap into the channels C1 and C2. The lower surfaces of the retaining members 32 are preferably not beveled, but rather have a square or barbed corners for effectively capturing the reinforcement bars within the channels C1 and C2. Compared to prior chair designs that have used opposing tapered slots in a conical or cylindrical wall, the opposing sidewalls and retaining members of the present invention provide a significantly improved retention mechanism.

Please replace paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Attached to the upper extremity of the each pair of leg members 106 is a cradle 120. Each cradle 120 preferably includes opposing sidewalls 124 and 126 which form a channel C1 in which a reinforcement bar (such as the bar B1 in Fig. 9) is received. Preferably the sidewalls 124 and 126 of the cradles 120 include a gap 136, as depicted in Figs. 6 and 8. However, in an alternative embodiment, the sidewalls 124 and 126 have no gap. One advantage of the embodiment with the gap 136 is that the sidewalls 124 and 126 are easier to flex outward to allow insertion of the reinforcement bars into the channel C1.

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Please replace paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

To prevent the reinforcement bars from lifting out of the cradles 120, on the inner surfaces of the opposing sidewalls 124 and 126 are retaining members 132. As shown most clearly in Figs. 6 and 7, the retaining members 132 extend slightly over the channel C1 to prevent the reinforcement bars from moving upward and out of the channel C1. As the Figures indicate, the upper surfaces of the retaining members 132 are preferably beveled, sloped, or curved slightly downward so that when the reinforcement bars are pressed downward toward the channel C1, force is transferred outward to cause the sidewalls 124 and 126 to flex outward and allow the reinforcement bars to snap into the channel C1. The lower surfaces of the retaining members 132 are preferably not beveled, but rather have a square or barbed corners for effectively capturing the reinforcement bars within the channel C1. Compared to prior chair designs that have used opposing tapered slots in a conical or cylindrical wall, the opposing sidewalls and retaining members of the present invention provide a significantly improved retention mechanism.